

gclt²⁵₂₁
GOLD COAST LITTLE
THEATRE

BYEBYE Birdie



29 January - 27 February 2021

Book By
Michael Stewart

Music By
Charles Strouse

Lyrics By
Lee Adams

Originally produced by EDWARD PADULA
By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd

Music Direction By
Ann Sparks

Directed By
Amy-Louise Anderson

Choreography By
Kate Learmonth

From the Director

message from Amy to add ...

Director, *Bye Bye Birdie*, 2021

Amy-Louise Anderson



DIRECTOR: Amy-Louise Anderson

Amy has worked extensively in community theatre, both on and off the stage. She appeared most recently in *Love Letters* (GCLT, 2020), *The Actress* (Javeenbah Theatre Company, 2019), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (GCLT) and *Abigail's Party* (GCLT). Amy directed *Secret Bridesmaids' Business* (GCLT, 2019) and worked on the creative team for *West Side Story* (GCLT). She teaches at Assisi Catholic College and is a long-time member of the NAPA family as a teacher, director, private acting tutor, and dance mum. Amy was named Gold Coast Woman of the Year in 2020 for her contribution to arts and culture.



MUSIC DIRECTOR: Ann Sparks

Ann has been teaching singing for more than 25 years, and for the past 22 years has been studying and consequently teaching the Estill Method, having been trained by Helen Tiller. Ann studied Singing Performance at the Conservatorium in Hobart, Tasmania, and has performed in many operas, oratorios and musical theatre productions. She was also involved in *Nonsense* and the Gold Coast Arts Centre's production of *Sweeney Todd* featuring Rob Guest.



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Todd Jesson

Todd is thrilled to be back at GCLT working with such a talented cast on *Bye Bye Birdie*. Having played a young Conrad himself many moons ago, Todd's experience in musical theatre includes *West Side Story*, *Footloose*, *Forbidden Broadway*, *Grease*, *A Chorus Line* and *Back to the 80s*. Todd can also be found singing around the Gold Coast at weddings, pubs and clubs. Our youngest cast member Sonny has happily nicknamed him 'Todd Dad Bod' and we think it might just stick.



CHOREOGRAPHER: Kate Learmonth

Kate has been a dance and drama teacher for the last seven years. An avid member of the community theatre scene, Kate has been on stage for Tugun Theatre Co in *The Cat's Cradle* and *Sylvia*, for Javeenbah Theatre Co in *Doglogs* and for GCLT in *Secret Bridesmaids' Business*. Kate has choreographed many school musicals including *Grease*, *Footloose* and *We Will Rock You*. In 2021, she will be on the choreography team for *Legally Blonde*. When not at the theatre, Kate enjoys playing Ladies League Tag for the Cudgen Hornets. Kate is very proud of the cast and crew of this wonderful production of *Bye Bye Birdie*.



STAGE MANAGER: Di Francis

Following a career in drama teaching and directing, Di is now enjoying stage managing and being a part of the theatre community. After completing an MA in Theatre (Directing), Di spent many years directing school musicals and drama festival plays including *Les Misérables*, *Of Mice and Men* and *Bouncers*. To date, Di has enjoyed stage managing for GCLT including *West Side Story*, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Barmaids*, *Secret Bridesmaids' Business* and now *Bye Bye Birdie*.

ADD IMAGE



ALBERT PETERSON: Stuart Morgan

Stuart's performing credits include *Catch Me If You Can* (Spotlight Theatre 2019), *Tarzan* (NAPA 2018) and *Legally Blonde* (Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre 2015) His previous directing credits include *The King and I* (GCLT, 2019), *Mary Poppins* (Bidgee Theatre Productions, 2015), *Hairspray* (BTP, 2013), *Fame* (Affinity Productions, 2011), *Seussical* (AP, 2010) and others. He has completed his Certificate of Performance in Singing for Leisure and is looking forward to completing his AMusA with Music Director Ann Sparks. Stuart will direct *Green Day's American Idiot* at GCLT later this year.



ROSIE ALVAREZ: Kristine Dennis

Kristine is a graduate of the Vocal Pedagogy course at Griffith University's Queensland Conservatorium (2012). For NAPA Ensemble productions Kristine has appeared in *Tarzan*, *Rock of Ages* (Waitress #1) and *Spring Awakening* (Thea). She won the Best Supporting Actress in a Musical Award at the 2016 Gold Coast Theatre Area Awards for her performance in Spotlight Theatre's *Bonnie and Clyde* (Blanche) and nominated for Best Supporting Actress for her role in GCLT's *Little Shop of Horrors* (Crystal) in 2017. Kristine is currently teaching singing at St Andrews Lutheran College and NAPA.



MAE PETERSON: Del Halpin

Del's theatrical journey has encompassed both professional and community theatre over the past 50+ years. Roles have ranged from Miss Adelaide in *Guys & Dolls*, Gertrude in *Hamlet*, Mum in *The Boys to Chris* in *Calendar Girls*. Some of her more recent roles are Thelma (Mama) in Javeenbah Theatre Company's *Night Mother*, Queen Mary in *Crown Matrimonial* at GCLT, and Madame Arcarti in Tugun's *Blithe Spirit*, the latter two roles earning her Best Actress trophies at the Gold Coast Palm Awards. Working with Amy-Louise Anderson and her young cast in *Bye Bye Birdie* has been exhilarating for this old stager.



CONRAD BIRDIE: Flynn Anderson

Flynn is no stranger to the GCLT stage: he was first seen here in his performance as Baby John in *West Side Story*. Flynn has been performing since before he could walk and has trained in musical theatre for 14 years at the National Academy of Performing Arts. He has appeared in several productions around the Gold Coast, some of his favourites being, *13 – A New Musical* (NAPA), *West Side Story* (GCLT), *Rock of Ages* (Marymount College), *Footloose* (NAPA) and *The King and I* (GCLT). Flynn is excited to be playing Conrad in *Bye Bye Birdie*.



HARRY MACAFEE: Chris Catherwood

After graduating from The Actors Conservatory in 2000, Chris's diverse theatre roles have included Carl Hanratty in *Catch Me If You Can*, John Jasper in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Sid Sorokin in *The Pajama Game*, Jack Torrance in *The Shining*, Elyot Chase in *Private Lives*, Hertz Klineman in *Rock of Ages* as well as the classic musicals *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *West Side Story* and *Mary Poppins*. Outside of 15 years doing pub gigs, Chris has performed in short movies, corporate videos and TV commercials. He received a Palm Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role (Play) as King Edward VIII in *Crown Matrimonial*.



DORIS MACAFEE: Rowena Orcullo Ryan

Rowena's love for performing began in childhood, where she learnt piano and was involved in choirs, drama, instrumental ensembles and musicals. Rowena's theatre credits include *The Sound of Music* and *Grease* with Ignatians Musical Society, and *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Miss Saigon* with Queensland Musical Theatre. Her screen credits include TV commercials for Kmart, Oz Lotteries and Youi, and she was also a regular extra on popular drama series *Offspring*. Last seen on stage for GCLT as Lady Thaing in *The King and I*, Rowena is thrilled to be playing Doris in *Bye Bye Birdie*.



KIM MACAFEE: Nadine Chia

Nadine trained at the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) where she pursued all styles of dance as well as singing and acting. Nadine has been involved in various shows such as *Bring it On the Musical*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Footloose*, and most recently starred as Veronica in NAPA's production of *Heathers*. She was also fortunate enough to be one of 24 people accepted into Pace University's prestigious BFA Musical Theatre program in New York City and will be moving to the USA for her studies in mid-August of 2021. Nadine is very excited to perform with the phenomenal *Bye Bye Birdie* cast.



RANDOLPH MACAFEE: Sonny Pascoe

Sonny has loved learning street tap, jazz, hip hop and musical theatre since the age of seven. His love of music has come from music appreciation lessons since he was 2 years old. Sonny's first musical was *Oliver!* with Spotlight Theatre in 2018, where he played the role of Nipper. He then played Sebastian the Crab in Trinity Lutheran College's *One Night Only* show at the Gold Coast Convention Centre in 2019. He also loves rapping, comedy, music, mountain biking, and his three little sisters. A highlight of *Bye Bye Birdie* has been working with the teens and more experienced members of the production.



RANDOLPH MACAFEE: Hudson Walsh

At 12 years of age, Hudson loves the theatre and is thrilled to be playing Randolph in *Bye Bye Birdie* alongside his talented cast mates. Beginning his theatre training from an early age, Hudson has performed in a number of shows over the years including the role of Aladdin in *Aladdin*, Young Charlie in *Kinky Boots*, King of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*, and *13! The Musical*. When he's not fulfilling his passion for theatre, Hudson is currently in Year 7 at TSS and enjoys basketball, cricket and spending his time with his family.



HUGO PEABODY: Bryn Larkin

Bryn's passion for acting sparked when competing in Speech and Drama reciting poetry in primary school. He then took classes at NAPA (National Academy of Performing Arts) throughout his schooling years. In high-school at Marymount College, Bryn was involved in three whole school musicals performed at HOTA. In 2019, he was fortunate enough to be cast as lead male, Emmet Forrest in MC's *Legally Blonde*. Gold Coast Little Theatre's *Bye Bye Birdie* is the first community theatre production Bryn has participated in and he hopes to do more in the future.



URSULA MERKLE: Dana Singer

Dana is 17 years old and has recently graduated from high school. She has been dancing and singing since the age of seven. During high school Dana starred in the school musicals playing Carmen Diaz in *Fame JR* and Campbell Davis in *Bring It On*. She aspires to continue pursuing her musical theatre education with Associated Studios Australia completing their British Diploma in Musical Theatre in 2022. *Bye Bye Birdie* has given Dana the opportunity to gain more experience and expand her dance teaching abilities as Dance Captain.



HARVEY JOHNSON: Kaden Forbitt

Kaden has loved performing from a young age and is a talented triple threat. This year he has performed in multiple productions, including *Hoods* and *West Side Story* where he played the role of Chino. Over the years he has performed in many productions including *Peter Pan*, *Oliver!*, and *The Little Mermaid*. Kaden's goal is to perform on Broadway, whilst also making it into the film industry. Kaden has won many eisteddfods and competitions as well as public speaking and poetry recitals. Kaden has loved being involved with the amazing production of *Bye Bye Birdie* and has made many new friendships.



MAYOR OF SWEET APPLE: Dom Bradley

Dom first began acting in the UK at the age of four. His performing credits include; Kurt Kelly in *Heathers The Musical*, Edward Lyons in *Blood Brothers* and Uncle Frank in the Queensland premiere of *Little Miss Sunshine*, the musical adaptation. Dominic also originated the role of Andrew George Scott (Captain Moonlite) in the inaugural production of *The Last Letter of Captain Moonlite*, an original one-act play. This production was toured during the 2019 SEQ One Act Play Festival circuit, and at Beenleigh Theatre Group, Dom was awarded Best Dramatic Actor and Best Actor of the festival.



GLORIA RASPUTIN/ENSEMBLE: Hannah Collins

Hannah's previous credits include *The Actress* (Nicole, Javeenbah Theatre Company), *Penelopiad* (Penelope, JTC), *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet, Coomera Anglican College) and *Cosi* (Henry, Coomera Anglican College). Hannah is very excited to perform in her first musical theatre production and has thoroughly enjoyed being part of a large ensemble cast. Hannah has been a passionate dancer since the age of six in a variety of styles and teaches dance at Ace Studios. Hannah is an accomplished artist and in 2015 graduated from Griffith University with a Bachelor of Animation.



PUBLICAN/ENSEMBLE: Maggie Holmes

Maggie is a classically trained soprano and has performed most recently in *Dream Role* at GCLT, singing *My Favourite Things*. She sang and danced the fandango in the regional chorus of Opera Queensland's 2017 touring production of *The Barber of Seville*, and her musical theatre debut was in the chorus of *Footloose* with Monash University Musical Theatre Company. Maggie has always loved choral singing and she has especially enjoyed working with Ann Sparks as 'official' assistant musical director, to unravel the *Bye Bye Birdie* harmonies.



EDNA/ENSEMBLE: Narelle Schmalkuche

Narelle is a well-known, seasoned performer of the Gold Coast, having performed in numerous productions from the age of 14 years old. Narelle debuted here at GCLT, playing the role of Peggy in *The Children's Hour*. She returns to the stage in *Bye Bye Birdie* after a nine-year hiatus, her last appearance being in 2011, in which she played opposite our very own Director in Javeenbah Theatre Company's *The Mousetrap*. Other highlights include Maureen in *Rent*, Madame Thenardier in *Les Miserables* and Grace Farrell in *Annie*.

SONG LIST

Act I

Overture – Orchestra
An English Teacher – Rosie
The Telephone Hour – Teenagers
How Lovely to Be a Woman – Kim
Penn Station/We Love You, Conrad! – Orchestra/Teen Trio
Put On a Happy Face – Albert
A Normal, American Boy – Albert, Rosie, Reporters, Ensemble
One Boy – Kim, Deborah Sue, Alice
One Boy" (Reprise) – Rosie
Honestly Sincere – Conrad and Company
Wounded" – Ursula, Deborah Sue, and Margie
Hymn for a Sunday Evening" – The MacAfee Family & Company
How to Kill a Man (Ballet) – Rosie, Albert, Company
One Last Kiss – Conrad & Company
A Normal, American Boy (Reprise, Act One Finale) Albert and The Company

Act II

Entr'acte – Orchestra
What Did I Ever See in Him? – Rosie & Kim
What Did I Ever See in Him? (Reprise) – Rosie
A Lot of Livin' to Do – Conrad, Kim and Teenagers
Kids – Mr. and Mrs. MacAfee
Baby, Talk to Me – Albert and Bar Patrons
Shriner's Ballet (dance) – Rosie & Shriners
A Mother Doesn't Matter Anymore.- Mrs. Mae Peterson
Kids (Reprise) – Randolph, Mr. MacAfee, Mrs. MacAfee, and Company
Lot of Livin' (Reprise) - Teenagers
Spanish Rose - Rosie
Rosie – Albert & Rosie



DEBORAH SUE MERKLE/ENSEMBLE: Georgie Ogge

Georgia debuted on the GCLT stage in *The King and I* (2019) and performed in *Miscast* (2020). Most recently, Georgia performed as Jovie in Spotlight's Youth Theatre production of *Elf Jnr*. In 2019 she was in the Children's Choir for Opera Australia's Regional Tour of *Madama Butterfly* (HOTA), *The Little Mermaid* (STC) and All Saints Anglican School's production of *Strictly Ballroom*. She was awarded Most Potential Classical singer 20yrs and under at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod (2019) and Junior Vocal Champion (2016). She has completed 5th grade exams in Classical Voice with Honours, Musical Theatre and Flute.



TRAIN BOY/TEEN ENSEMBLE: Andrew McMath

Andrew has undertaken training in musical theatre with the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) for the past five years. Across NAPA and school productions, Andrew has appeared in *The Wiz*, *Oklahoma!* *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with a highlight being the role of Gomez in *The Addams Family*. In addition, he has undertaken vocal training with Matt Ward Vocal Studios and performed in the Greenroom Project Junior. *Bye Bye Birdie* is Andrew's first production with Gold Coast Little Theatre. He has enjoyed working with the cast and crew while developing his performance skills.



LITTLE GIRL/TEEN ENSEMBLE: Courtney Sutherland

At 14 years old, Courtney has performed with NAPA in both theatre and dance. She has been involved in nine musicals since beginning in 2015. This year Courtney obtained her first lead role as Alice in *The Addams Family Jnr*. Another notable role was being cast as a juvenile dancer for Bonnie Lythoe's *The Adventures of Peter Pan* at HOTA in 2017. *Bye Bye Birdie* is Courtney's first show with GCLT. She has loved meeting new people and learning new skills. Courtney aspires to complete a Bachelor of Musical Theatre and move to NYC!



TEEN ENSEMBLE: Ciodhna Ni Cathain

Cliodhna has been training in the performing arts, music, drama and dance, for nine years. She has been a part of various plays, musicals, orchestras, bands and dance troupes. Most recently, Cliodhna was seen on stage for Aquinas College as a Teen Queen in *We Will Rock You* and is also an active member of the AQ Dance Excellence Team. Cliodhna wishes to continue studying in all areas of the performing arts in hope to pursue a career in the performing arts. She has been part of the Gold Coast Mermaids synchronised swimming team for six years and has recently performed at HOTA's summer festival Scoop!



TEEN ENSEMBLE: Joshua Farnworth

Joshua's first acting experience was performing in the self-written school musical *Bugalicious*. In 2017, he was part of the ensemble for Spotlight Theatrical Company's production of *Oliver!*. In 2019, Joshua participated in Harvest Rain's production of *The Wizard of Oz*, in the mass ensemble. After three years with Spotlight Youth Theatre, he now attends Technicolour Theatre Company classes and is part of Helensvale State High School's Drama Academy. Joshua has loved the community he has joined through *Bye Bye Birdie* and can't wait to do more shows at GCLT.



TEEN ENSEMBLE: Rhys Cates

New to the performing arts scene, Rhys has performed in five performances across the Gold Coast from the beginning of 2020. Having recently graduated year 12, Rhys has participated in two theatre productions including; *Grease* at Saint Stephen's College and *42nd Street* at Spotlight Theatrical Company. He hopes to continue with musical theatre into 2021 and aspires to enrol at Griffith University's Music Conservatorium. Rhys has greatly enjoyed his experience thus far with Gold Coast Little Theatre and looks forward to doing more.



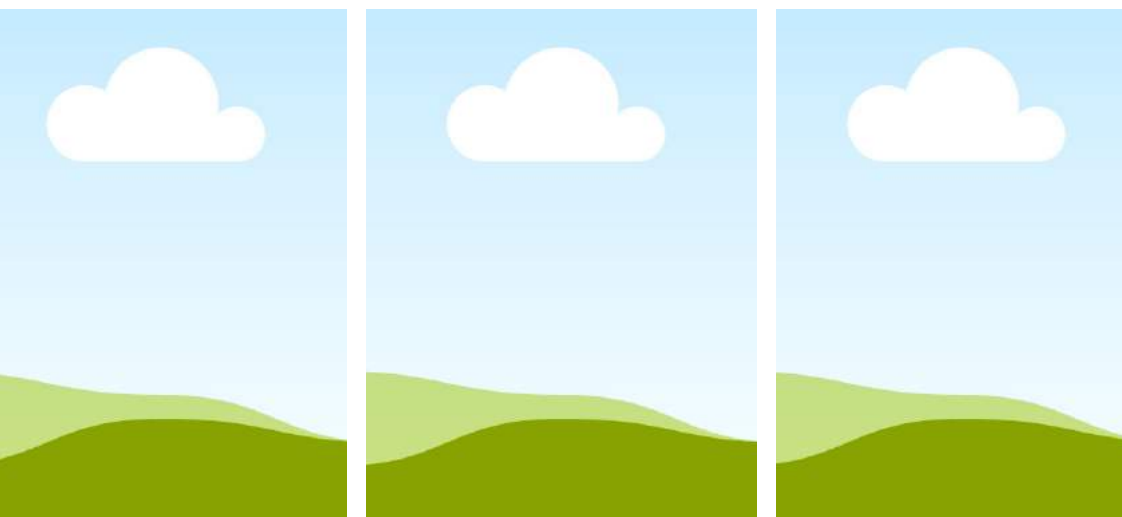
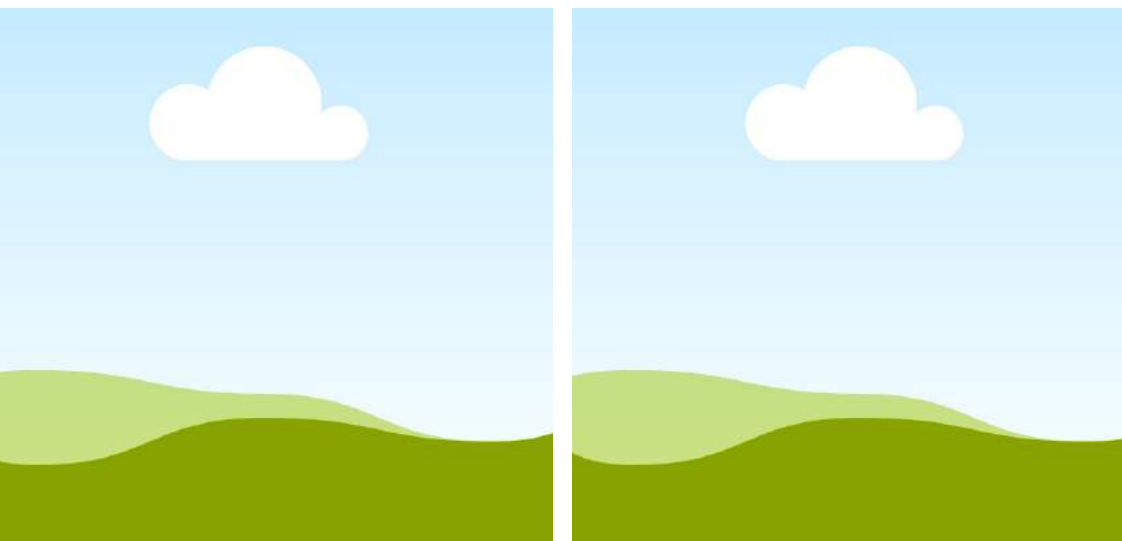
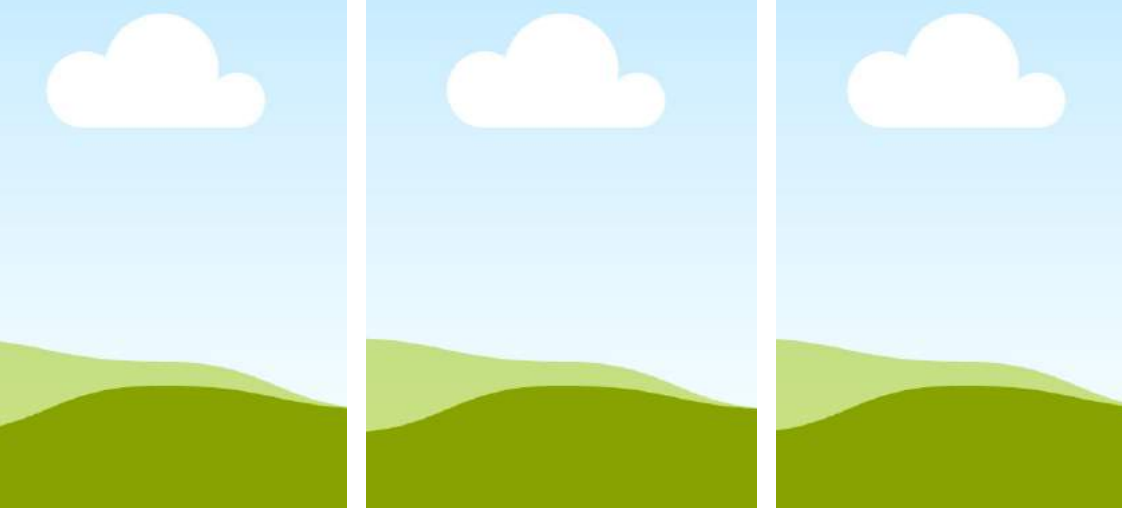
TEEN ENSEMBLE: Jessica Eaton

Jessica has been performing from a young age. She began training at the Michelle Slater performing arts academy. While there, she competed in many competitions and performed in countless shows, the most memorable being *Mary Poppins*. She trained in ballet, jazz, tap and musical theatre before moving in the direction of singing. Since moving to the Gold Coast in 2016, she has undertaken lessons with Ann Sparks. This will be her first show not only at the Gold Coast Little Theatre but on the Gold Coast.



TEEN ENSEMBLE: Emily Macwhirter

Eleven-year-old Emily Macwhirter is a dancer and actor who is loving being part of the *Bye Bye Birdie* cast. She has performed in *Spark and the Crystal Crusade* (2019) at Spotlight Theatrical Company, as well as school productions and was the voice of Ruby in Artslink's *Ruby Moon*. Emily learns dancing at Academy Dance Studios, including ballet, jazz, tap, acro, contemporary, musical theatre and hip-hop. She has won several awards for her solo dance and drama performances at eisteddfods and enjoyed background work on the film *Aquaman* and TV series *Grace Beside Me*. Emily hopes you love the show!





TEEN ENSEMBLE: Ethan Cook

A lover of all things performing arts, Ethan has been singing since he was 10 years old. He enjoys all forms of dance including; jazz, tap, ballet, contemporary, lyrical, hip hop and musical theatre. Ethan has been seen on stage for NAPA in *Tarzan*, *Heathers* and *West Side Story* as well as for Spotlight in *Oliver!* and *The Little Mermaid*. He was also a dancer in Jonathan M. Schiff's, *The Bureau of Magical Things*. Ethan's has his sights on becoming a performer on a Disney Cruise Line in the future. He has loved working on *Bye Bye Birdie* and making new theatre friends.



TEEN ENSEMBLE: Jaryn Oliphant

Fourteen-year-old Jaryn has always been involved in the arts; as a member of the school choir, performing in school plays and being a part of the instrumental program as a saxophonist for five years. In 2019, Jaryn took up dance, doing both tap and lyrical/contemporary classes with KOTB Performance Academy. Jaryn has performed in *Oliver!* with Spotlight Theatrical Company, Technicolour Theatre Company's first production of *Peter Pan* in 2019 as John, and most recently in Technicolour's 2020 production of *Romeo and Juliet* as Romeo.



MRS MERKLE/ENSEMBLE: Carole Lange

It has been a long 2020 road to get *Bye Bye Birdie* to the stage and Carole is so thankful to have been able to share the journey with such a great bunch of folks! Some of her previous involvement in shows around the Gold Coast includes *The King and I*, *The Actress*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Not The Messiah: He's Just a Very Naughty Boy*, *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* and *Les Miserables*. Carole's favourite part of *Bye Bye Birdie* is the diverse range of fantastic tunes. She hopes you enjoy the show!



ENSEMBLE: Lee Patterson

Lee is often seen working Front of House at GCLT but is no stranger to the stage. Since moving to the Gold Coast in 2012 you may have seen her as Gladys in *Kiss Me Kate*, Lady Airley in *Crown Matrimonial*, Princess Puffer in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Mabel in *The Pajama Game* and Cummie Barrow in *Bonnie & Clyde*. Lee loves the friendships formed in theatre and is enjoying being part of this fun cast.



ENSEMBLE: Damian McCoy

Damian was hit by a car at the age of three in Tasmania. After being rehabilitated by his mother he was involved in another car tragedy with her at the age of 12. At the age of 40, Damian moved independently to Queensland to chase his dreams, training in acting at the New York Film Academy and appearing in locally filmed movies. Since photographic modelling in 2004, Damian always had a dream of being on stage and screen. Currently being filmed for a documentary about his journey in acting, he is so grateful to have the opportunities here on the Gold Coast to display his crafts and talents.

add images

PRODUCTION TEAM & APPRECIATION

Director Amy-Louise Anderson
Music Director Ann Sparks
Choreographer Kate Learmonth
Assistant Director Todd Jesson
Stage Manager Di Francis
Stage Assistant Isabelle Sutton
Set Design Amy-Louise Anderson
Set Construction Lawrie Esmond
Artwork Hannah Collins, cast & crew
Lighting & Sound Lawrie Esmond
Wardrobe Shirley Whitehouse
Hair Ann-Britt Riget
Properties Di Francis
Photography Shane Caddaye
Marketing & Program Michelle Macwhirter
Social Media Kate Learmonth
Promotional Art Stuart Morgan
Prop Construction Russell Williams

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- Share our Facebook events and auditions



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WHO WILL WIN?

CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE 2021 DOLPHIN AWARDS

What did you love about this show?

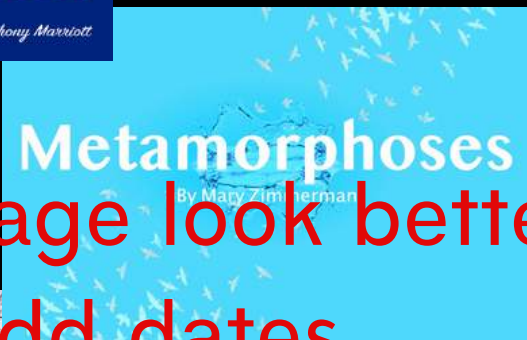
Who was your favourite performer? Tell us!



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